## CATHOLIC CENTENARY.

Call for a General Congress of the Laity of the United States at

Baltimore.

The Anniversary of the Establish ment of the Hierarchy to Be Remembered.

Topics of General Interest to the Church to be Discussed Opening of the Catholic University.

To the Catholics of the United States:

The centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic hierarchy of the United States, which is to be celebrated with befitting pomp and ceremony under happy auspices in Baltimore, next November, may naturally be expected to bring together an imposing assemblage of the hierarch and clergy, as well as a large concourse of the Catholic laity, who will be eager to take part in an event so interesting in itself and so impressive and suggestive in its religious and historic significance.

That the Catholic laymen should hold at the same time and place a general meeting or congress would seem most appropriate. When the suggestion of such a meeting was happily conceived and put forth, it was everywhere met with expres-sions of warm approval. It was felt that a congress of the Catholics of the United States, called without reference to national or local lines, on a broad and generous platform, could not fail to be productive of good results.

good results. It would demonstrate the unity of the entire Catholic body in all that concerns the principles of our holy religion; the harmony, mutual attachment and good will harmony, mutual attachment and good will subsisting among the different orders in the church—the Hierarchy, the Clergy and the laity—and it would moreover afford an opportunity to testify in a public manner the loyalty of the Catholics of the United States to the constitution and laws of the land, to which they have invaribly been loval in the past and may, with equal confidence, be relied on to be faithful and devoted in the future. The advantages of such a meeting then being apparent and its opportuneness most evident, there was only required the sanction of authority to justify the call for a general congress of the Catholics of the United States.

We are happy to say the project of this congress has the approval of His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, and of other archbishops and bishops.

and bishops,
The preliminaries have been arranged and the congress is now accordingly called to meet in the city of Baltimore, Monday, November 11th, at 10 o'clock a.m. It is ex-pected that the sessions will continue dur-ing two days. The local arrangements for the congress are in charge of a committee

the congress are in charge of a committee of Baltimore gentlemen.

The principal subjects for consideration and discussion have been substantially agreed on, and capable gentlemen have been invited to read papers before the congress on the topics proposed to them. General discussion of these questions will be invited, and the titles of the several papers will be duly announced beforehand. The congress is intended to be free and open to all Catholics.

To provide for due order and so that necessary regulations shall prevail, as well as for the purpose of ensuring general representation from all parts of the country, it has been decided by the committee in charge to issue cards of admission to the floor of the hall, which cards will entitle the person named thereon to the full privileges of the congress. These cards will be placed in the hands of the bishon or adminplaced in the hands of the bishop or administrator of each diocese. Catholics who desire to attend the congress will make appli-

cation accordingly to the ordinary of their diocese for the necessary introduction. Coincidently with the celebration of the Catholic centennial and the meeting of the Catholic congress, will occur the formal opening of the Catholic University of America at Washington, an institution in which the Catholic laity of the United which the Catholic laity of the United States feel the deepest concern, and to the future of which they look with hope and pride. This event would in itself be of suf-ficient general importance to bring to-gether a large number of leading Catholic laymen, who have already signally demon-strated their interest in this great under-

The meeting of the Catholic congress, therefore, under the conditions proposed, will be seen to be in every respect timely. The result of the meeting and the effect of the deliberations and discussions cannot but prove most useful and beneficial in

every respect.

The people of the United States lately celebrated by appropriate religious and public services, amid universal rejoicing, the centenary of the formal establishment of our free government. Catholics justly shared in the general joy, as they have likewise participated in the advantages our admirable constitution guarantees to all citizens, especially the precious boon of civil and religious liberty, the seed of which was first planted and nourished in "Catholic Maryland"

With eminent fitness, therefore, may we With eminent fitness, therefore, may we now call our Catholic brethren together to join in celebrating another anniversary of exceptional interest: to recall the memory of the devoted and patriotic bishop whose zeal for religion and love of liberty have won for his memory the reseet and admiration of every American; to testify the unity of their religious faith, their steadard admirate additional control of the properties and their fast additional true properties, and their fast adherence to true principles, and their unwavering attachment to the constitution and laws of this free and prosperous coun-

Try.
William J. Onahan, Chicago, Chairman.
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Patrick Farrelly, John Gilmary Shea, Louis
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Patrick Farrelly, John Gilmary Shea, Louis Benziger, New York; John A. Creighton, Omaha; Lawrence kehoe, Louis Ernst, New York; Patrick Poland, Cincinnati; C. A. Mueller, Joseph Rauft, Manly Tello, Cleve-land; M. J. Harson, Providence; Martin Neuhausel, Toledo; P. V. Deuster, Edward O'Neil, Milwaukee; James H. Dormer, Buffale; John Lawler, Prairie du Chien; Chas, T. Bonaparte, Daniel J. Foley, Balti-more,

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